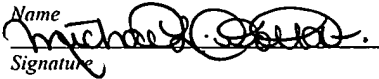




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I hereby Certify that this Correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 3, 2003.

Michael L. Culotta
Name

Signature
December 3, 2003
Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/780,807
Applicant(s) : Stefan THIEM et al.
Filed : February 9, 2001
Title : Automatic Stainer Having a Heating Station
Docket No. : 37105.0023

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANT AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Notice of Noncompliant Amendment mailed November 4, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.